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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,085	03/24/2004	John Ratzloff	1282.1101101	5362
28075 7590 09/21/2007 CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420			EXAMINER CULLER, JILL E	
			ART UNIT 2854	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/21/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/808,085	Applicant(s) RATZLOFF, JOHN	
	Examiner Jill E. Culler	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on March 24, 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3, 7-12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (4,911,777)

With respect to claims 3, 10, and 11, Hunter et al. teaches a method of preserving a printed image. As illustrated in Figure 5, Hunter teaches the step of providing an assembly, 110, of a blank, photo-printable sheet, 116, and a mounting strip, 114. (See also column 6, lines 52-6) Figure 5 further shows the mounting strip including a mounting portion, 122, for mounting the mounting strip to an album. Figure 11 teaches the step of sending the assembly through a printer to print a photographic image on the blank sheet. Hunter et al. further teaches the step of mounting the assembly in an album using the mounting strip. (See column 1.)

Hunter et al. does not teach that the mounting strip is spaced apart by a gap from the edge of the blank sheet and connected by connecting strips thereto.

Truc et al. teaches an assembly for mounting in an album including a sheet, 12, and a mounting strip, 44, spaced apart from the edge of the sheet by a gap, 50, and connected by connecting strips thereto. See column 4, lines 1-16 and Fig. 6 in particular.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the assembly of Hunter et al. to have the gap and edge strips, as taught by Truc et al., in order to more securely and durably assemble the two pieces.

With respect to claim 7, Figure 11 of the primary reference Hunter et al. shows the step of sending the blank sheet and attached mounting strip through the printer to print an image on the sheet, such that the image becomes integral with the paper.

With respect to claim 8, Figure 11 of the primary reference Hunter et al. shows the step of sending the blank sheet and attached mounting strip through a desktop digital printer. Column 5 lines 61-66 teach the use of a digital printer.

With respect to claims 9 and 12, the primary reference Hunter et al. teaches mounting holes 122.

With respect to claims 15-16, although Hunter et al. and Truc et al. do not explicitly teach the gap having a width in the range of about 0.375 inches, one having ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious that width of the gap would be dependent upon the relative sizes of the sheets and hinge strips and therefore the optimum size could best be determined through routine experimentation.

With respect to claims 17-18, although Hunter et al. and Truc et al. do not explicitly teach the use of a photo-grade material, the applicant should note that insofar as structure is defined, the printer paper sheet 110 of Hunter meets this limitation, as a photo of good quality may be printed on the sheet. Furthermore the term photo-grade paper as broadly recited, does not define a cut-off requirement as to what quality of photo is enough to meet this limitation.

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3. Claims 4, 6, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (US 4,911,777) as applied to claims 3, 7-12 and 15-18 above, and further in view of Tyler (US 4,207,366).

As outlined above, Hunter et al. and Truc et al. teach all the claimed method steps, except the composition of the photo-grade sheet is not known.

With respect to claims 4, 6, and 13, column 1 lines 35-54 of Tyler teach paper for printing, the paper comprising 100% cotton rag paper. Column 1 lines 35-54 also teach the use of neutral (acid-free) paper.

To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the paper taught by Tyler, in the method of Hunter et al. and Truc et al. in order to provide dimensionally stable crush resistant paper, as taught in the abstract of Tyler.

With respect to claim 14, and the requirement for an acid free hinge strip, column 1 lines 48-54 teach the importance of neutral (acid-free) paper.

In view of this teaching of Tyler, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make an acid-free hinge strip because neutrality in paper is the most important factor in paper permanence as taught by Tyler in column 1 line 50.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (US 4,911,777) as applied to claims 3, 7-12 and 15-18 above, and further in view of Singh et al. (US 6,332,953).

As outlined above, Hunter et al. and Truc et al. teach all the claimed method steps, except the composition of the paper is not known.

Column 2 lines 48-50 of Singh teach paper for printing, the paper being unbleached and uncoated.

To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the unbleached and uncoated paper of Singh et al., in the method of Hunter et al. and Truc et al., because paper of this composition has been routinely used for printing purposes, as taught in column 2 of Singh et al.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed June 29, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the hinge strip, 44, of Truc is coupled to and overlaps the sheet, 12, although the drawings of Truc do not identify the hinge strip and the connecting strips as separate elements, it is clear from Fig. 6 that the edge strip that corresponds to the mounting strip of the current application is not directly in contact with the sheet, 12, but is connected to connecting strips that are then in contact with the sheet past the gap, 50.

In response to applicant's arguments with respect to the embodiment of Truc not referred to for use in the rejection, it should be noted that Truc is relied upon merely for the teaching of a gap and connecting strips between the edge and the sheet.

In response to applicant's argument that Hunter et al. teaches away from the use of a gap because providing a gap would undermine the regularity and proper positioning of the fold taught by Hunter et al., one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize

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the advantages of adding the gap, as discussed in the above rejection and would be motivated to modify the structure of Hunter et al. to realize these advantages. The specific teachings of Hunter et al. do not preclude modification in this manner.

In response to applicant's arguments with respect to the term "photo-grade", as discussed in previous actions, the term "photo-grade paper", as broadly recited, does not define a cut-off point as to what quality of photo is enough to meet this limitation. There is no indication in applicant's claim that the characteristics of the paper used are in fact limited in any way beyond that a photo can be printed on them. Similarly, although the Hunter et al. reference gives several examples of types of paper, it is clear that more than one type of paper can be used in the prior art invention, not just those provided in the examples.

With respect to the affidavit filed August 9, 2006 and addressed in the action of August 23, 2006, although general characteristics are given for the current industry standard for photo-grade paper, this does not place any definite limits on applicant's claimed invention and therefore the limitations must remain broadly interpreted as discussed above.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

Jill E. Miller
Patent Examiner